

Planning - Inventories (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700513

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

The Needles Field Office (NFO) lies within one of the fastest growing areas of the nation and serves as a gateway to the Mojave Desert to travelers using Interstate 40. Needles receives over 200,000 visitors a year and is considered a primary recreation destination for residents living within three states. Outdoor enthusiasts rely on the 3.2 million acres administered by the NFO. Staff and management are striving to meet these increase visitor usage demands by taking a proactive approach to resource protection and recreation use.

Recreation is dependent on the 3,200 miles of Backcountry routes, mostly accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles, and several are adjacent to at least one of 18 designated wilderness areas. This route system provides the blueprint and direction needed to design and plan a comprehensive recreational program identifying and addressing present and future OHV and non-OHV recreational needs. All recreation activities in the NFO, whether motorized or non-motorized depend on high clearance 4 X 4 vehicles and designated routes for transportation and access to sites.

Numerous areas receive a high volume of OHV use. Typically, these areas are located adjacent to rural communities, major highways, or open areas managed by neighboring field offices. Each location presents unique challenges to staff whose primary responsibilities, while managing OHV activity in these areas, includes the protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as public safety.

Visitor Use Studies are a vital building block in developing a comprehensive recreation plan. Visitors to the area are drawn to Needles for its well-known dispersed nature. The BLM requires valid and reliable data from visitors to assist field-level managers in planning and budgeting, however, Federal budget cuts, complicated by the current economic situation depleted available discretionary funds. The Visitor Use Inventory project is urgently needed to assist with gathering vital visitor use information and to provide the NFO with reliable data. BLM is restricted by regulation on collecting public data and must rely on Non-Profit Organizations or Academic Institutions to administer and collect the information.

The Needles Planning Project requests funding over a three-year period to provide a contract with and Accredited Scholastic Institution (AI) to do the visitor survey for the NFO. Deadlines would be determined jointly during the first phase, between the NFO, contracted AI, and Public Focus Groups. The primary objectives of the inventory are to collect and analyze OHV related recreational data, to determine legal and illegal types of use, location destinations, academic review literature and test management models, develop a comprehensive plan based on most compatible management model will address the goal of blending the needs of environmental protection with those of OHV related visitation. Public and shareholder needs would be identified through meetings with focus groups and shareholders.

The first phase would establish an agreement with an AI, provide contracting professors a site visit for familiarization and site identification, collaborate to develop a focus group script, conduct focus groups meetings, to identify and address issues such as visitor demographics, experiences and behavior, and concerns.

The second phase would use the information obtained from the various user-groups and stakeholders, and develop procedures to design a survey questionnaire used for collecting data of visitor use activities, and to conduct visitor use surveys at specific sites and along the dispersed OHV route network within the NFO.

Phase 3, AI completes visitor use data collection, analyze collected data, compile, and produces the completed inventory reports for BLM.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

During the Thanksgiving weekend, three major events all occur the same days at three separate and distant locations. Two motorized OHV events, a poker run in the Chemehuevi Wash and a Dual Sport ride on the utility corridor north of Interstate 15, and the National Landsailing regatta on Ivanpah Dry Lake. Staff focuses on the planned events during these peak times.

Between the two OHV events over 500 vehicles are traveling on designated routes. Most event participants also ride on the routes before and after the event. The Dual Sport riders travel on designated routes to return to their homes in California, and the adjoining states. People riding in Chemehuevi are mostly winter visitors staying along the Colorado River or own vacation homes in the area. Vacation residents and winter visitors use the OHV routes most every day either to recreate or to travel to local communities for supplies and entertainment. This constant movement of vehicles affects non-motorized recreation and the solitude of the adjacent wildernesses.

Knowing how permitted and individual OHV activities and non-motorized recreational user groups interact is important information for land managers. Knowing how, what, when, where and why different recreation groups affect each other helps decrease user conflict and achieves the BLM mandate for multi-users. The Planning grant would design and collect data deemed important to stakeholders and land managers thus assisting BLM to plan activities that enhancing experiences for motorized and non-motorized users.

C. Statement of Activities

BLM Needles proposes to develop research and technical assistance agreement with an Accredited Scholastic Institution (AI) to provide visitor use inventory information to use for land management planning. The project contributes to an ongoing program of research and technical assistance to help the BLM and its recreation-tourism partners to more responsibly plan and manage recreation lands. The requested project would span three years and consist of three phases. This time-period would allow for meetings and data collection to coincide with the NFO recreational season to ensure the BLM is provides the largest range of the public users to participate in these opportunities.

Valid and reliable data from visitor's use of routes and recreation areas is useful to field-level managers for planning and budgeting. As such, the BLM needs to collaborate with an AI to provide the following, develop a focus group script, conduct focus groups meetings, which would address issues such as visitor demographics, experiences and behavior, and concerns. This information will be obtained from various user-groups and stakeholders, and will be used to i) address the specific management needs of the groups as well as ii) design a survey questionnaire to be used in the other phases of the project.

NFO staff, managers, AI Professors, will develop a focus group script that addresses visitor demographics, experiences and behavior, and concerns. This data will support management planning, budgeting, and ensure informed decision-making. BLM will provide a venue for the focus group meetings. The AI would be responsible for conducting about 6-8 focus group meetings, designing the questionnaires for the inventory, collecting, entering and coding data, conducting analysis, and writing a final report.

D. List of Reports

Project Deliverables and reports would adjust with the information collected from focus groups and stakeholder. The following are reports anticipated from BLM only and would not reflect the desires of focus groups and stakeholders until those issues are addressed in the middle of the first phase. Project reports and documents would be provided to the grant administrator as each phase of the project was completed.

Anticipated Project Deliverables	Estimated Date
Phase I	
1. Final focus group script	One week before first focus group meeting
2. Final focus group report W/ survey questionnaire ready for submission to OMB for review.	July 2011
Phase II	
1. Completed inventory data collection Report	March 2013
Phase III	

1. Inventory Project close out Report September 2013

Additional Documentation

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Needles Planning - Inventory Timeline](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Attachments:

[NFO Resource Area and Recreation Sites](#)

Project Cost Estimate

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APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Needles Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Planning - Inventories (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-12-P01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Needles Field Office (NFO) lies within one of the fastest growing areas of the nation and serves as a gateway to the Mojave Desert to travelers using Interstate 40. Needles receives over 200,000 visitors a year and is considered a primary recreation destination for residents living within three states. Outdoor enthusiasts rely on the 3.2 million acres administered by the NFO. Staff and management are striving to meet these increase visitor usage demands by taking a proactive approach to resource protection and recreation use.</p> <p>Recreation is dependent on the 3,200 miles of Backcountry routes, mostly accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles, and several are adjacent to at least one of 18 designated wilderness areas. This route system provides the blueprint and direction needed to design and plan a comprehensive recreational program identifying and addressing present and future OHV and non-OHV recreational needs. All recreation activities in the NFO, whether motorized or non-motorized depend on high clearance 4 X 4 vehicles and designated routes for transportation and access to sites.</p> <p>Numerous areas receive a high volume of OHV use. Typically, these areas are located adjacent to rural communities, major highways, or open areas managed by neighboring field offices. Each location presents unique challenges to staff whose primary responsibilities, while managing OHV activity in these areas, includes the protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as public safety.</p> <p>Visitor Use Studies are a vital building block in developing a comprehensive recreation plan. Visitors to the area are drawn to Needles for its well-known dispersed nature. The BLM requires valid and reliable data from visitors to assist field-level managers in planning and budgeting, however, Federal budget cuts, complicated by the current economic situation depleted available discretionary funds. The Visitor Use Inventory project is urgently needed to assist with gathering vital visitor use information and to provide the NFO with reliable data. BLM is restricted by regulation on collecting public data and must rely on Non-Profit Organizations or Academic Institutions to administer and collect the information.</p> <p>The Needles Planning Project requests funding over a three-year period to provide a contract with and Accredited Scholastic Institution (AI) to do the visitor survey for the NFO. Deadlines would be determined jointly during the first phase, between the NFO, contracted AI, and Public Focus Groups. The primary objectives of the inventory are to collect and analyze OHV related recreational data, to determine legal and illegal types of use, location destinations, academic review literature and test management models, develop a comprehensive plan based on most compatible management model will address the goal of blending the needs of environmental protection with those of OHV related visitation. Public and shareholder needs would be identified through meetings with focus groups and shareholders.</p> <p>The first phase would establish an agreement with an AI, provide contracting professors a site visit for familiarization and site identification, collaborate to develop a focus group script, conduct focus groups meetings, to identify and address issues such as visitor demographics, experiences and behavior, and concerns.</p> <p>The second phase would use the information obtained from the various user-groups and stakeholders, and develop procedures to design a survey</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
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	questionnaire used for collecting data of visitor use activities, and to conduct visitor use surveys at specific sites and along the dispersed OHV route network within the NFO. Phase 3, AI completes visitor use data collection, analyze collected data, compile, and produces the completed inventory reports for BLM.
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Outdoor Recreation Planner Notes : Outdoor Recreation Planner - This is the estimated hours estimate this position would spends over a three year period to support the Planning - Inventory project. Activities include reviewing projects proposals & contracts, tracking labor, project cost, contacts, documents, and assisting University personnel with field operations. Hours show overall Planning project labor cost as required by grant directives. Labor cost is listed as matching funds only, no grant funding requested. See attached Needles Field Office OHV Staffing Matrix for breakdown.	531.000	48.000	HRS	0.00	25,488.00	25,488.00
	Other-Volunteer Time	600.000	20.250	HRS	0.00	12,150.00	12,150.00
	Other-Mangement / NEPA Notes : Management / NEPA - This is the estimated hours 2 Full Time Senior Managers estimate to spends over a three year period to support Planning -Inventory project. Activities include reviewing projects proposals & contracts, tracking labor, project cost, contacts, and documents. Hours show overall Planning project labor cost as required by grant directives. Management labor is listed as matching funds only, no grant funding requested. See attached Needles Field Office OHV Staffing Matrix for breakdown.	63.000	55.000	HRS	0.00	3,465.00	3,465.00
	Other-Recreation Branch Chief Notes : Recreation Branch Chief - This is the estimated hours estimate this position would spends over a three year period to	234.000	51.000	HRS	0.00	11,934.00	11,934.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	support the Planning - Inventory project. Activities include reviewing projects proposals & contracts, tracking labor, project cost, contacts, documents, and assisting University personnel with field operations and supervising Recreation staff. Hours show overall Planning project labor cost as required by grant directives. Labor cost is listed as matching funds only, no grant funding requested. See attached Needles Field Office OHV Staffing Matrix for breakdown.						
	Total for Staff				0.00	53,037.00	53,037.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Agreement w/ Accredited University Notes : The following is the breakdown for requests for Visitor Use Inventory estimates. Average Scholastic Institutions project cost estimates required funding for the following categories labor, travel, and supplies/printing/postage: Labor: 2 PhD Graduate Student - \$ 60,000, 2 M.S. Student - \$48,000, 2 hourly undergraduate students - \$4,400, 2 Professor salary - \$30,000. Travel expenses - \$10,000. Supplies/printing/postage - 10,000. A subtotal of \$172,400 plus Indirect cost - \$30,170 (17.75 per GSA contract). Total estimated cost = \$202, 570. Based on the estimates received, this item is perceived to be in acceptable ranges.	1.000	230000.000	EA	200,000.00	30,000.00	230,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Misc Supplies to support Program Notes : Program Supplies refers to items not foreseen, but needed to complete the Planning Project. This funding would cover writing instruments, note pads, clip-boards, batteries, replacement adaptor plugs, etc..	1.000	1000.000	EA	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Field Vehicle	15000.00	0.490	MI	0.00	7,350.00	7,350.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : Ford 105 1/2T 4X4 PU	0					
	Field Vehicle Notes : Ford Expedition 1/2T 4X4 SUV	8000.000	0.560	MI	0.00	4,480.00	4,480.00
	Other-Administrative Vehicle Notes : Chevy Malibu Sedan	4000.000	0.220	MI	0.00	880.00	880.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	12,710.00	12,710.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
	Travel Notes : Travel and training will be required in order for the listed staff to learn, understand, explain the inventory procedures to the public, and to facilitate communication between the contractor and the NFO. Travel & Training cost are listed as matching funds only, no grant funding requested.	1.000	3000.000	EA	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Administrative Cost	1.000	20000.000	EA	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Total Program Expenses				220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
 Application: Planning - Inventories (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	0.00	53,037.00	53,037.00	
2	Contracts	200,000.00	30,000.00	230,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	12,710.00	12,710.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
7	Indirect Costs	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		220,000.00	99,747.00	319,747.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) Yes No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[2009/10 Planning Grant Departmental Categorical Exclusion](#)

Planning Project Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points) 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points) 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses
 Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.
 Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents
 Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation
 Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

A visitor use study would help identify potential effects of OHV Recreation by identifying routes, areas, and sites most visited, and providing the number of visitors, and frequency of visits per season. High visitation would indicate increased monitoring for potential effects. Monitoring schedules could be adjusted and potential problems addressed before effects became serious.

The contractor would collect information from several areas, sites and location throughout the Field Office. Data collect would provide invaluable insight to where, what, how, and why the public go where they go. Data would indicate where potential effects on special-status species habitat, impact to cultural sites, where route degradation occurs, where multi-use conflict are, pin point illegal trespass on private lands , and potential conflict areas with residents. Visitors would identify trails used and traffic patterns, and the data would insure proper signing is present to ensure illegal trail issues do not pose a problem.

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 6 or more items checked (4 points) 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)
 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) [Land Sailing, Land scape photography] | |

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
 Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
 Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The Needles Visitor Use Inventory project was conceived through conversations during meetings and over phone calls between NFO Staff, stakeholders, interest groups, and concerned individuals spanning several years. Stakeholder and interest groups involved locally included OHV groups, rock-hounding clubs, hiking clubs, and environmental groups throughout the Tri-State area.

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

If approved, BLM Needles and the University would rely on NFO partners and other local clubs and organizations to form the focus groups described in the Planning Project description.

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points) 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point) None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

California Fish and Game Small Guzzler Volunteer Group
Rotary
Student Conservation Association
Mohave Gem and Mineral Club
Sierra Club
Bullhead and Mohave 4-Wheeler Clubs

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 11

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
 Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)

- Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
- Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
- Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

1. Collected information would identify and provide Needles with reliable and detailed tools insuring current and future management plans address the needs of the public, of the land, while providing existing and future OHV Opportunities.
3. Valid visitor information collected includes where, how, and frequency of use, thus helping staff plan and design OHV facilities and routes adjacent to population centers.
4. Inventory information provides locations and desires of the public, and identifies lacking OHV opportunities in the area, allowing for future developments of OHV opportunities.
5. Reliable data on favorite routs, destinations, and OHV related activities and non-motorized activities would identify primary and backcountry routes, indicate signing discrepancies and provide new sites as destination points. The information is also valuable in identifying signing, restoration, and education needs.

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The completed project and reported information would be infused into the NFO 7-year recreation plan and used in the future to guide the develop of OHV and recreation projects and plans, Bureau of Land Management receives multiple funding sources for OHV and recreational projects and activities. Sources of funding include Federal appropriations, California State OHMVRD Grants, partnerships, Non-Profit Organizations, and Conservation Clubs (i.e. Sierra Club, Wilderness Collation), and OHV Clubs. The most important benefit of this project is the insight to OHV related visitor use it would provide to the Needles Field Office staff, managers, interest groups and the public.

Reference Document

Funding for Recreation actions are included within the BLM State Annual Work Plan.

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Having valid and reliable visitor use information provides essential information to NFO staff and management. Knowing the exact activities (e.g. OHV, hiking, rock hounding, camping), frequency of visits, location of public visited points of interest, and demographics of user, all help in developing a comprehensive recreation plan. Knowing what, where, and how the public recreates provides tools to insure offsite impacts are addressed and measures are designed and in place to help decrease those effects. The information collected by the project would allow staff to address off site impacts relative to several areas, it would identify not only the problems associated with sound, dust, and runoff, but provide staff with the exact locations causing the problems and to what extent the public is affect by the situation.